



# UTAH MULTICULTURAL AFFAIRS

STRENGTHENING AND EMPOWERING UTAH'S MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY

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## Lt. Governor Greg Bell Visits the Murray Boys & Girls Club

In July 2012 Lt. Governor Greg Bell visited the Boys & Girls Club in Murray, Utah. Lt. Governor Bell took this opportunity to tour the site and visit with youth, teachers, and administration. This was also an opportunity for Lt. Governor Bell to hear about the great programs and services the Boys & Girls Club brings to the community.

Programs at the Boys & Girls Club address educational achievement, career exploration, drug and alcohol avoidance, health and fitness, gang and violence prevention, cultural enrichment, leadership development and community service.

Other activities include technology programs, a high tech recording studio, cooking, arts, sports, homework help and

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**Lt. Governor Bell visits with children enrolled in the Boys & Girls Club Childcare Program (top) and Youth Program (Page 3).**



## MCC Member Chosen to Attend UNHCRs Annual Consultations with NGOs

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Annual Consultations with NGOs is an annual gathering by the UNHCR to bring together resettlement states, NGOs, and the UNHCR itself to strengthen cooperation and communication around resettlement issues. This year, the meeting was held from July 9th to July 12th in Geneva, Switzerland. The Australian government, who is this year's host of the gathering, selected Aden Batar, Refugee Resettlement Director for Catholic Community Services and member of the MCA's Multicultural Commission, to attend this conference as a successful resettled refugee from Somali to share his story and be a voice for resettled refugees.

With more than 350 representatives and some 200 small and large, national and international assistance and advocacy organizations from around the world, Aden said, "It is an honor as a US Citizen, Utahan, a refugee, and as a Somali to attend and speak at this conference."



# Diverse Foster Parents Wanted

By Jordan Ames, Foster Family Recruiter, Utah Foster Care Foundation

Many of us wonder sometimes how we can make a difference in our community. Right now, there are many children who need families like yours and mine.

It is a situation that deserves our attention. In Utah, there are 2700 children in foster care and over 1400 licensed foster/adoptive families. Many of these children come from diverse ethnic and cultural backgrounds, yet we do not have the number of diverse foster parents to care for the children.

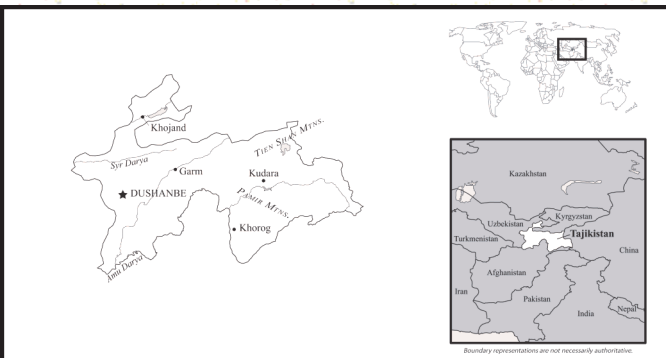
You can imagine how difficult it is when a child is placed into a foster family. But what if that family does not share their cultural identity? That is why Utah Foster Care Foundation is looking for families from diverse ethnic backgrounds, such as African American, Native American, Hispanic, Polynesian, etc, to care for our children. These children come from our own neighborhoods and families. They need the support of loving, caring families who share their cultural background.

Foster parent preparation classes are offered monthly at our offices throughout Utah and they are free of charge. Classes for Spanish speakers will be offered again in October 2012.



**Foster parents Cheryl & Jervis Lee of Magna with Dan Webster, Area Representative for Utah Foster Care Foundation**

We would like to invite anyone who wants to know more about being a foster/adoptive family to contact the Utah Foster Care Foundation at 877-505-KIDS or [www.utahfostercare.org](http://www.utahfostercare.org). There are children out there who need safe homes like yours!



## Republic of Tajikistan

### BACKGROUND

**Land and Climate** The Republic of Tajikistan covers 55,251 square miles and is slightly smaller than Wisconsin.

**History** Tajik history dates as far back as 2100 BC, when the Amu Darya and Syr Darya river systems gave rise to an advanced civilization.

### THE PEOPLE

**Population** Tajikistan's population of over 7.6 million is growing at an annual rate of 1.9%. Some 80% are ethnic Tajiks, 15% are Uzbeks, and 1% are Russians.

**Language** In 1989, Tajik replaced Russian as the official language, and its everyday use is becoming more prevalent.

**Religion** Most Tajiks and ethnic Uzbeks are Sunni Muslims.

### SOCIETY

**Government** The president is head of state. The prime minister is head of government and is responsible for the economy and infrastructure. Legislative power is vested in the parliament, which is divided into an upper chamber and a lower chamber.

**Economy** Tajikistan is one of the most rural of the former Soviet republics; 67% of its people work in agriculture.

Source: CultureGrams World Edition 2012

## Promotion of Interfaith Dialogue

In May 2012 members of Multicultural Affairs (MCA) and the Multicultural Commission (MCC) met with representatives from Tajikistan. Their visit to the United States was part of the Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program and was arranged by World Learning.

The purpose and objective of the visit included:

- ✧ A review of the historical origins of religious freedom in the United States and the American commitment to tolerance and the separation of church and state;
- ✧ Understanding the impact of religion on political life and education in the United States;
- ✧ Meeting with religious leaders to examine their role in the community and their cooperative efforts with leaders of other religious traditions; and
- ✧ Exploring how religious conviction relates to charitable and community activism as demonstrated in volunteer efforts, educational programs, health care, and social initiatives.

The representatives met specifically with MCA and MCC to discuss the culturally-diverse outreach programs offered for all ethnic communities and how these programs encourage and promote a climate of inclusion.



**James Whitaker, Mr. Davlatdzhon, Mr. Dzhamshed, Mr. Veniamin, Jean Mills-Barber, Steven Ha, Claudia Nakano, Interpreter, Michael Hansen**



# Topaz Museum and Education Center

The Topaz Museum Board broke ground on Aug. 4, 2012 after ten years of efforts to establish a permanent Museum in Delta, Utah, 16 miles from the original site of Topaz. Photographs, artifacts, and displays depicting the Topaz internment experience will inform and educate visitors. Further, it is hoped that former internees and their families will experience a strong emotional connection to the Museum and will be able to take comfort in the fact that the hardships they endured will not be forgotten.

The Topaz Museum will preserve the history of Topaz. The Foundation owns 634 acres of the Topaz site, which has mostly remained undisturbed since the camp was dismantled after it closed in 1945. Visitors to the site can still see the roads, outlines of barracks and even an occasional garden which internees created to brighten their bleak surroundings. Concrete foundations of mess halls and latrines remain and one can find various artifacts of daily internment life buried in the dusty desert. The project is expected to cost \$2.3 million by the time it is completed.

Source: [Topaz Museum](#)



## Lt. Governor Greg Bell Visits the Murray Boys & Girls Club

(Continued from Page 1) a variety of other activities that change to meet the needs and interests of its members.

Overall, the Boys & Girls Club offers a safe place for youth to learn and grow, develop ongoing relationships with caring, adult professionals, participate in life-enhancing programs and character development experiences, and above all, provides hope and opportunity.

## Student Spotlight

Samantha Lopez was born in Fountain Valley, California and raised in Kearns, Utah. Her parents originally immigrated to the United States from Jalisco, Mexico with dreams of a better future. Samantha is the youngest of five children and at the age of two, her family moved to Salt Lake City, Utah in order to live a better life. As her family adapted to the new culture and language, Samantha's parents instilled in her the importance of obtaining an education in order to be successful.

In 2008, the recession hit and Samantha's parents lost their jobs and health insurance. In no time the family was in jeopardy of losing their home. Even after months of applying for numerous jobs, Samantha's father received constant rejections based on his age and lack of the English language. Samantha's mother also suffered a back injury in a former job and was unable to work or maintain her health due to the lack of health insurance. A decision had to be made to keep Samantha and her siblings together. As a result, Samantha's parents moved back to Mexico before losing the only thing they had left, their home.

Despite these obstacles, Samantha continued to study hard and was rewarded by maintaining honors throughout junior high school and high school. Upon graduation and with the help of the Trio-Upward Bound Program at the University of Utah, Samantha was accepted into the UofU and received the Daniels Fund Scholarship and the Chicano Scholarship to assist her in her education.

As a first generation college student, Samantha works hard to keep the promise she made to her parents; to obtain a postsecondary education. This past spring semester 2012, Samantha was placed on the Dean's Honors List. In June 2012, she was chosen as 1 of 22 Latinas nationwide to attend

*"When rough times come and I feel I can no longer continue to fight for my dreams, I remember this quote :*

***"Be the change you wish to see in the world!"***

***— Mahatma Gandhi***

*and find the strength to continue. I believe in my community, in not being a negative statistic but making a positive change through education and hard work. I have understood that in order to see a change, one must set an example and be the change in order for others to follow."*  
*Angelica Samantha Lopez, MCA intern*



Washington, DC for the Latinas Learning to Lead program where she had the incredible opportunity to meet leaders from across the United States and participate in leadership building workshops. If this was not already enough, Samantha is also the President of the University of Utah's First Latina Sorority, Kappa Delta Chi-Alfa Chi Chapter, an academic and service oriented sorority.

When asked what motivates her to continue her education, Samantha replied that Mahatma Gandhi's quote, "Be the change you wish to see in the world," keeps her going. We are honored to have Samantha as part of Multicultural Affairs!



## Multicultural Affairs Quarterly Newsletter

Lt. Governor Greg Bell, Chair, Multicultural Commission  
 Claudia Nakano, Director, Multicultural Affairs  
 Samantha Eldridge, Special Projects Coordinator, Multicultural Affairs

Please send submissions to this Newsletter and/or to be included in the Newsletter Mailing List to [seldridge@utah.gov](mailto:seldridge@utah.gov).

# Announcements

**Health Innovation Summit**  
 Utah Solutions: Bringing Health to Health Reform.

**Tuesday Sept. 25, 2012**  
 Grand America Hotel | Salt Lake City, Utah

**2012 Utah Brazilian Festival**

Saturday, September 8th from 1pm to 7pm  
 Gallivan Center - 239 South Main Street  
 Salt Lake City

The Utah Brazilian Festival has a new home in Salt Lake City. Come party with us at the Gallivan Center.

**CELEBRATE ART**  
 MUSIC & DANCES OF THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION

**FAMILY DAY**  
 FREE & BILINGUAL

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1-5 p.m.  
 SLC MAIN LIBRARY  
 210 East 400 South

Exhibit of the most important photographs of the Mexican Revolution from Mexican Consulate Archives - BILINGUAL TOURS

Art and crafts, music, and paper flower-making 1-3 p.m. - 11:00 a.m. - Paper flower-making 10 a.m. with Gabriela Cuevas 1:00-3:00 p.m. - Presidential Chair art project with Susan Kelly 2 p.m. - Cornhole Tournament of the Revolution with David Cuevas 2 p.m. - Musical chair art project with David Cuevas 4 p.m. - Dance of the Revolution with David Cuevas

[www.utahmexicanconsulate.org](http://www.utahmexicanconsulate.org)

**2012 Utah Refugee Conference**  
 October 26-27, 2012

Hosted at the Salt Lake City Convention Center - 150 W. 300 S. - SLC, UT

Information support direction

Early bird registration is August 20-October 5, 2012  
 Regular registration is October 6-15, 2012

PRICES:  
 Full Weekend (Friday all day, Friday evening reception, Saturday half day)  
 Early Bird \$750/person  
 Regular \$1000/person  
 Group Rate: \$650/person (MAXIMUM REGISTER BY OCTOBER 5, 2012)  
 Flat rate for everyone after October 5, 2012  
 Saturday Only \$400/person  
 Friday Evening Reception only \$100/person

HOW TO REGISTER:  
 Go to [www.refugee.utah.gov](http://www.refugee.utah.gov) and complete the self-registration form and then either:  
 1) Email it to your computer and attach it to an email to [refugee@utah.gov](mailto:refugee@utah.gov)  
 2) Print it and mail to: 2000 SDC - Room 300 - 1601 - 300 So. 1601 E.  
 Payment by VISA, MASTERCARD, or AMERICAN EXPRESS, call Becky Bell at 801-526-1060 and have your credit card number ready. If paying by check or money order (acceptable to Refugee Services Office) mail it with your completed form to the above address.

Department of Refugee Services - [refugee.utah.gov](http://refugee.utah.gov)

**EL GRITO!**  
 De La Independencia

Marque la Fecha  
 SEPTIEMBRE 15 Y 16

VENGA A ELEBRAR  
 LA INDEPENDENCIA DE MEXICO  
 CON ENTRO CIVICO MEXICANO!

TRANSMISION EN VIVO desde EL CAMINO DE MEXICO  
 EL CAMINO DE LA INDEPENDENCIA

CAR SHOWS • COMIDA Y BEBIDAS MEXICANAS • AREA PARA NIÑOS  
 DANZA AZTECA • BALLET FOLKLORICO • MUSICA EN VIVO • BAILE

SABADO 9/15/12: 1PM-1AM  
 DOMINGO 9/16/12: 1PM-8PM

EL GRITO DE LA INDEPENDENCIA  
 EL CAMINO DE LA INDEPENDENCIA  
 CENTRO CIVICO MEXICANO

**A Celebration Of CULTURAL DIVERSITY**  
 10th ANNUAL FESTIVAL

A free family-oriented multicultural event promoting goodwill through sharing of multicultural, world-class performing arts.

Organized By: **SALAAM**

WHEN: Saturday September 8, 2012, 10am - 2pm  
 WHERE: Pioneer Park (south end), 350 S 100 W, Salt Lake City, UT 84101

PROGRAM:  
 9am - Opening - Boy Scouts Diversity Troop Presenting Flag  
 9:15am - Salt Lake Saints Jazz  
 9:30am - Jambo Africa Burundi Drummers  
 10am - Eastern Arts presenting Central Asian dances  
 10:30am - Kenhin Tokyo Japanese Drummers  
 11am - Bird Show by Avian Sanctuary and Protection  
 11:30am - Samba Fogo  
 12pm - Salt Lake Japanese March Band  
 12:30pm - Kinexon Don Spradish Irish Dancers  
 1pm - Closing

Plus 5 dollars to those who register as supporters of Salt Lake American Studies (Students at our schools)  
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In Cooperation With:  
 Salt Lake County Office of Cultural Affairs  
 Salt Lake County Office of Cultural Affairs  
 Salt Lake County Office of Cultural Affairs

Special Thanks To:  
 SLUG  
 SLUG  
 SLUG

Funded By:  
 Salt Lake County Office of Cultural Affairs  
 Salt Lake County Office of Cultural Affairs  
 Salt Lake County Office of Cultural Affairs

**FIESTA MEXICANA UTAH**

10th Celebration of the Mexican Independence Day | Saturday September 15, 2012 | Utah State Fairpark

*Fiesta Mexicana*  
 A Utah based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization

**DÍA DE LOS MUERTOS TEEN ART CONTEST**

CALL FOR ENTRIES

DEADLINE: SUN, SEP 30, 5PM

GRAB AN ART CONTEST FLYER OR EMAIL [CMARKLE@SLCPL.ORG](mailto:CMARKLE@SLCPL.ORG) FOR MORE INFO.

**2001 2012 festival LATINOAMERICANO**  
 Celebrating Culture and Community

aug 31, sep 1 & 3

Friday: 6pm - 10pm | Saturday & Monday: 10am - 10pm  
 50 SOUTH UNIVERSITY AVENUE, PROVO

ETHNIC FOODS • ENTERTAINMENT  
 ARTS & CRAFTS • CARNIVAL RIDES

Sunday Sept. 2  
 Special Program  
 6:00 pm (Festival Stage)

Utah Community Credit Union  
 State Farm  
 Centro Latinoamericano  
 Kids on the move  
 HER BLOCK  
 WCF  
 La Gran D  
 La Gran D  
 La Gran D

West Valley City, the Chinese Heritage Foundation, and the Utah Cultural Celebration Center present

**CHINESE HERITAGE FRIENDSHIP GATE CELEBRATION**

Saturday, September 29, 2012  
 6:00 PM

Featuring Food, Fireworks, Performances from Aerialists and Acrobats, and Traditional Music and Dance from China, Mexico, South America, Polynesia, Central Africa, and the American West

**FREE ADMISSION**

Utah Cultural Celebration Center  
 1355 West 3100 South  
 West Valley City, Utah 84119

(801) 965-5100

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[www.culturalcelebration.org](http://www.culturalcelebration.org)

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 300 South Rio Grande Street  
 Salt Lake City, Utah 84101  
 Phone (801) 245-7214  
 Fax (801) 521-4727